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September 14, 2009

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
Governor, State of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the grave concerns I have previously expressed to you regarding the State Board of Public Works decision to close Upper Shore Community Health Center (USCHC) in Chestertown.

Although I understand the challenging budgetary situation facing the State of Maryland, I do not believe that this closure is in the best interest of the individuals served by USCHC or the State and I encourage the Board of Public Works to look elsewhere to find the needed savings. USCHC provides essential services to its patients, who will now be forced to forgo essential treatment or travel great distances to receive much needed medical care. Furthermore, closing USCHC will eliminate 90 jobs, which will have a disproportionately negative impact on the local economy of Maryland's smallest county. The State's decision to cut jobs at USCHC will only further impede the ability of Chestertown and the surround area to recover economically.

Given the loss of essential mental health care services and the devastating job cuts that would result from the proposed closure to Upper Shore Community Health Center, I urge you to reconsider this decision. If the Board of Works closure does become a reality, I request that your Administration make every possible effort to help displaced employees find new jobs and to ensure the continuation of quality care for all affected patients. Those most directly affected by this decision need and deserve reassurances that every effort will be made to mitigate the impact of the planned closure. Please respond by detailing what options exist for overturning this decision, and what steps would be taken to help the displaced employees and patients in the event that the decision cannot be reversed. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Frank M. Kratovil, Jr.